

Fig. 5. The six hindmost (gravid) segments of an entire specimen, showing the manner in which they are filled with the egg-capsules (*E.C.*).

Fig. 6. Section through a single egg-capsule, highly magnified.

A., outer cell-layer; *B.*, inner cell-layer; *C., C.*, cavities in the central substance, in which the embryos are contained; *Emb.*, one of the contained embryos.

All the figures were drawn with the aid of a camera lucida.

V.—On some Australian Cicadidæ.

By W. L. DISTANT.

I RECENTLY received from Dr. Hamlyn Harris, Director of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, a collection of Cicadidæ for identification. Amongst these were some specimens from such interesting localities as Toowoomba and Stradbroke Island belonging to South Queensland. Four new species contained in this consignment I now describe—the types are in the British Museum.

Melampsalta stradbrokeensis, sp. n.

♂. Head, pronotum, and mesonotum black; abdomen above testaceous, base and transverse segmental fasciæ, lateral angulate segmental spots, and anal segment black; sternum and legs black; lateral margins of face testaceous; streaks and apices to femora, apices and annulations to tibiæ, and posterior margins to opercula ochraceous; abdomen beneath dark ochraceous, basal margin, apex, and lateral segmental spots black; tegmina and wings hyaline, the first with the interior of costal membrane castaneous; pronotum centrally longitudinally sulcate; mesonotum with a central longitudinal carinated fascia, compressed near middle and amplified posteriorly; exposed tympana greyish white with transverse fuscous lines; face centrally sulcate for about half its length, not strongly transversely ridged; opercula small, transverse, ochraceous, black at base, not meeting internally, posteriorly broadly rounded.

Long., excl. tegm., 17 mm.; exp. tegm. 42 mm.

Hab. South Queensland; Stradbroke Island (*H. Hacker*).
Type Brit. Mus.

To be placed near *M. latorea*, Walk.

Melampsalta geisha, sp. n.

♀. Vertex of head, face, and pronotum castaneous brown, area of the ocelli, margin of front, and a sublateral fascia on

each side of face black; clypeus black; mesonotum castaneous brown, with four anterior black obconical spots, the two central spots shortest, a small black spot near each anterior angle of the basal cruciform elevation; abdomen above testaceous, posterior segmental margins flavous, anterior segmental margins black, anal segment with two longitudinal black fasciæ; body beneath and legs testaceous, femora more or less spotted with black; abdomen with a central series of somewhat obscure black spots, the posterior segmental margins flavous; tegmina and wings hyaline, the first with the venation and the costal and postcostal membranes more or less testaceous, wings with the venation piceous brown, apex of anal area infuscated; vertex longitudinally impressed between the ocelli; pronotum with the central area longitudinally grooved; face distinctly centrally sulcate and strongly transversely carinate.

Long., excl. tegm., ♀, 13 mm.; exp. tegm. 37 mm.

Hab. South Queensland; Stradbroke Island (*H. Hacker*).
Type Brit. Mus.

Allied to *M. infuscata*, God. & Frogg., who described that species as the then only one of the genus seen "with apex of anal areas of wings infuscated."

Melampsalta hackeri, sp. n.

♂. Body above and beneath ochraceous, with a more or less virescent tint; vertex of head with the area of the ocelli, four prominent spots at anterior margin, the two central spots largest, and a transverse spot near anterior margin of each eye, pronotum with two central linear fasciæ connected anteriorly and posteriorly and the fissures, mesonotum with two anterior central obconical spots, a posterior central elongate spot and a rounded spot in front of each anterior angle of the basal cruciform elevation, and some spots on anterior margin of the metanotum black; on each side of the obconical spots to mesonotum is a small angulate spot and a long submarginal spot of a pale brownish hue; abdomen above with the anterior margin of the basal segment, the interior of the tympanal cavities, a centrally broken series of segmental, discal, transverse fasciæ on the upper surface of abdomen, and a series of lateral segmental spots to same black; face with two central longitudinal black fasciæ and an oblique black spot at base of each antenna; coxal spots, streaks to femora, apices of tibiæ, spines to anterior femora, base and apex of rostrum, and a basal central marginal spot to abdomen black; tegmina and wings hyaline, the first with the venation ochraceous,

the extreme costal margin, the postcostal membrane, the upper margin of basal cell, and basal area of inner margin to clavus black; wings with the venation darker on apical area; body above and beneath more or less greyish pilose; opercula transverse, well separated internally, posterior margins broadly rounded; face longer than broad, distinctly centrally longitudinally sulcate, strongly transversely carinate, the lateral areas depressed.

Long., excl. tegm., ♂, 18 mm.; exp. tegm. 50 mm.

Hab. South Queensland; Stradbroke Island (*H. Hacker*).
Type Brit. Mus.

Allied to *M. labyrinthica*, Walk.

Melampsalta toowoomba, sp. n.

♀. Head, pronotum, and mesonotum black, head with the ocelli red, the front brownish ochraceous, a spot at base between the ocelli, and a smaller spot on the lateral margins ochraceous; face black, the lateral margins and a central spot at base ochraceous; rostrum ochraceous, its apex broadly black; pronotum with a central, discal, longitudinal, ochraceous fascia, the fissures, and anterior and posterior margins dull castaneous; mesonotum with the basal cruciform elevation ochraceous, centrally black; abdomen above ochraceous, a broad central longitudinal fascia, margins of the abdominal segments, and the apical area black, the last with a long angulate ochraceous spot; head beneath and sternum black, abdomen beneath and legs ochraceous; coxæ, trochanters, and femora black or blackish, base and apical area of abdomen beneath black; tegmina and wings hyaline, venation black, costal and postcostal membrane and a basal streak before clavus ochraceous; wings with the base narrowly ochraceous; head foveately impressed between and behind the ocelli; face deeply centrally sulcate; the transverse sulcations profound; wings with six apical areas.

Long., excl. tegm., ♀, 13 mm.; exp. tegm. 42 mm.

Hab. South Queensland; Toowoomba (*Hamlyn-Harris*).
Type Brit. Mus.

A species to be placed near *M. murrayensis*, Dist.

SYNONYMICAL NOTES.

In the Proc. Roy. Soc. Victoria (n. s.), 1914, pp. 15-18, pl. iii., Mr. Howard Ashton has described "Three new African Cicadas," all of which are unfortunately old and long-before described species. It is a very speculative proceeding to describe in Australia new species from the Ethiopian Region, especially without the opportunity for comparison with properly identified specimens from that area.

Munza basimacula.

Platypleura basimacula, Walk. List. Hom. i. p. 10 (1850).

Platypleura reducta, Walk. l. c. p. 11 (1850).

Munza pygmæa, Jacobi, Sjöstedt, Kilimanj. Exped., Hom. t. i. fig. 3 (1910).

Platypleura sikumba, Asht. Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. (n. s.) 1914, p. 16, pl. iii. fig. 5.

A very widely distributed species, received from S. and Centr. Africa and from the Congo region.

Platypleura quadraticollis.

Platypleura quadraticollis, Butl. Cist. Entom. i. p. 194 (1874); Dist. Ins. Transvaal, vol. i. p. 172, t. xvii. fig. 9 a, b, ♀ (1906).

Platypleura nigromaculata, Asht. Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. (n. s.) 1914, p. 16, pl. iii. fig. 3.

This species is widely distributed. Butler originally described it from Lake N^o Gami; I found it in the Transvaal, and we have received it from Uganda; Ashton has redescribed it from a specimen received from Entebbe.

Platypleura divisa.

Cicada divisa, Germ. in Silb. Rev. Ent. ii. p. 80, t. xxiii. (1834).

Platypleura longirostris, Asht. Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. (n. s.) 1914, p. 17, pl. iii. fig. 4.

Mr. Ashton's figure is quite misleading; it is unnecessarily magnified.

Although Mr. Ashton describes the wings as "reddish yellow," the absence of any coloration in the figure makes the wings appear to be hyaline; he also correctly describes "a white spot on margin just outside anal area" which does not appear in the illustration. The length of the rostrum is not a constant character. It is a common species throughout South and East Africa.

Abricta noctua, Dist. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xii. p. 487 (1913).

Abricta rufonigera, Asht. Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Austr. xxxviii. p. 349, pl. xvii. fig. 6 (1914).

Kobonga froggatti, Dist. Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xii. p. 490 (1913).

Kobonga castanea, Asht. Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Austr. xxxviii. p. 351, pl. xxxviii. fig. 5 (1914).